

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
HATTIESBURG DIVISION**

**ROGER LEE**

**PLAINTIFF**

**VERSUS**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:08cv203KS-MTP**

**STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE  
INSURANCE COMPANY AND JOHN DOES  
A, B, C, D, AND E**

**DEFENDANTS**

**ORDER**

This matter is before the court on Motion for Reconsideration and to Vacate Judgment [**#s 43 & 44**] of this court's order granting the defendants' motion for summary judgment and dismissal of this matter filed on behalf of the plaintiffs. The court, having reviewed the motions and being otherwise fully advised in the premises finds that the motions are not well taken and should be denied. The court specifically finds as follows:

The Federal Rules do not recognize a "motion for reconsideration" as such. However, the Fifth Circuit has consistently stated that a motion so denominated, provided that it challenges the prior judgment on the merits, will be treated as either a motion "to alter or amend" under rule 59(e) or a motion for "relief from judgment" under Rule 60(b). The proper denomination of the motion is determined by the time within which the motion is served. If the motion is served within ten days of the rendition of judgment, it falls under Rule 59(e); if it is served after that time, it falls under Rule 60(b). *See Ford v. Elsbury*, 32 F.3d 931, 937, n.7 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1994). The present motion was filed

within ten days of rendition of the original judgment, thus it will be considered under Rule 59(e), as argued and briefed by the plaintiffs.

“A motion for reconsideration filed within ten days of judgment is treated as a motion to alter or amend under Rule 59(e) . . . . Rule 59(e) has been interpreted as covering motions to vacate judgments, not just motions to modify or amend.” *Edward H. Bohlin Co. v. Banning Co.*, 6 F. 3d 350, 353, 355 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993). “A motion to alter or amend the judgment under Rule 59(e) ‘must clearly establish either a manifest error of law or fact or must present newly discovered evidence’ and ‘cannot be used to raise arguments which could, and should, have been made before the judgment issued.’” *Rosenzweig v. Azurix Corp.*, 332 F.3d 854, 863-64 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003)(quoting *Simon v. United States*, 891 F.2d 1154, 1159 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir.1990)). Relief under Rule 59(e) is also appropriate when there has been an intervening change in the controlling law. *In re Benjamin Moore & Co.*, 318 F.3d 626, 629 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir.2002).

In ruling on such a motion, the Fifth Circuit has instructed that “a district court should consider the following nonexclusive list of factors: (1) the reasons set forth by the movant justifying consideration of evidence or arguments that the movant failed to present in the underlying motion (2) the importance of the reconsideration of the underlying motion to the movant’s case (3) whether the reasons set forth by the movant justifying the reconsideration were available to the movant before they responded to the underlying motion and (4) the likelihood that the non-movants will suffer unfair prejudice if the motion is reconsidered.” *Harrigill v. U.S.A.*, 2004 WL 1595676 (S.D. Miss., June 1, 2004) (citing *Sturges v. Moore*, 73 Fed. Appx. 777, 778 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003)).

The present motion filed by the plaintiff seeks to reargue the same facts and the

application of the same law to those facts as was argued in the original motion and response, with the exception of one new Mississippi Workers' Compensation case, which the court finds has no relevance to this action. Thus, the court finds that neither the facts nor the law have changed in the intervening period of entry of the judgment. Therefore, the court finds that the motion is not well taken and should be denied.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the plaintiffs' Motion for Reconsideration and to Vacate Judgment **[#s 43 & 44]** are denied.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED this the 14th day of December, 2009.

*s/Keith Starrett*  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE